Setting up of a National Commission for human rights

2683. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Asian countries meeting at Jakarta agreed to set-up national commission to protect human rights but were unsure how to keep them independent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure the independence of human rights commission?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action is now, being taken to finalise the framework for the proposed National Commission on Human Rights in which process due consideration is also being given to the issue of independence in the founctioning of the Commission.

पारपत्र कार्यालयों में कर्मचारियों की कमी

2684. श्री रामसिंह राठवा : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पारपत्र कार्यालयों में पारपत्र संबंधी कार्य को कर्मचारियों की कमी के कारण नुकसान हो रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस बाधा को दूर करने के लिये सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया) : (क) और (ख) जी हां। 1980 में भारत में सभी पासपोर्ट कार्यालयों में नए पासपोर्टों के लिए प्राप्त आवेदन-पत्रों की संख्या 9.5 लाख थी जो बढ़कर 1992 में 24.72 लाख हो गई जिसके अनुपात में कर्मचारियों की संख्या में वृद्धि नहीं हुई।

(ग) 1992 में सरकार ने 400 अतिरिक्त पद मंजूर किए थे। कार्य की वर्तमान मात्रा के आधार पर कर्मचारी संख्या से सम्बन्धित मानदण्डों के निर्धारण के लिए कर्मचारी निरीक्षण एकक चुनिंदा पासपोर्ट कार्यालयों का अध्ययन कर रहा है।

Disturbance created during Independence Day function at Indian Mission in Birmingham

2685. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain elements created disturbance during the Independence Day Function held on August 15, 1992 and desecrated the National Flag in the function hosted by the Assistant High Commissioner of the Indian Mission at Birmingham;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the officials present there did not protest and the two Indian nationals who protested were roughed up; and

(d) whether a reprot in this regard was lodged with the local police and the Home Department; and if so, what action the police have taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). On 15 August, 1992, the Assistant High Commissioner, Birmingham, held a function for the Indian community at his residence in Birmingham to celebrate the Independence Day. About 300 persons of the Indian community attended the function. About 40 minutes after the commencement of the function, about 30 members of the Babbar Khalsa and other Khalistani Organisations, who had joined the gathering in small numbers, shouted anti-Indian and pro-khalistanti slogans broke the flag pole, desecrated the National Flag and trampled on the photograps of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru, which were on a dias. The police officers who were present at the function, were unable to control the situation, and sought reinforcements. The Khalistanis fled when extra police arrived after about 20 minutes. The Assistant High Commissioner and other staff could not resist the ouslaught of the mob. However, two members of the Indian community Shri Jitendra Kotecha and Shri Kamal Dev Pathak, who were present, protested against the disruption of the function and were roughed up by the Khalistanis.

(d) The High Commission of India, London, took up the matter at a high level with the Gritish Foreign and Home offices, as well as, with the concerned police authorities. The police responded promptly by arresting 2 of the Khalistanis involved. They have since been convicted for causing criminal damage.

2686. (Transferred to 22nd March, 1993)

Nuclear weapon to Pakistan by China

2687. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that China sold at least two dozen new dangerous M-11 missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, whether Government filed any protest against China or with any international agency guarding the interest of nations for peaceful co-existence?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are aware of the reports on this transaction. Government have also noted the statement of the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry that these newspaper reports were 'groundless'.

(b) and (c) In discussions with the Chinese Government, Government have emphasised that the supply of sophisticated arms and missiles to Pakistan beyond its legitimate requirements of defence, poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in South Asia. Government have additionally stressed the need for the avoidance of actions that may negate mutual confidence and understanding between India and China.

Building of Army Headquarters of China in Tibet

2688. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is biulding a massive Army Headquarters in Tibet consisting of about 43 storey building each containing 40 rooms to house 15000 men:

(b) whether China has already developed a rapid development system to move soldiers into Tibet from inland Chinese provinces at great speed; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government have seen newspaper reports of construction near Lhasa, to house a Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) headquarters.